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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 20544 061855Z
63
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 016756
R 061844Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3896
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20544

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PARM, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL

REF: BONN 20359

1. A FONOFF DISARMAMENT OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON DECEMBER 6 THAT THE FRG WAS CONSIDERING HOW FAR THE FRG-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ACCORDS COULD BE STRETCHED (REFTEL). HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME, THE OFFICIAL, A LAWYER BY TRAINING, EMPHASIZED THAT THE VARIOUS ACCORDS WERE BINDING AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS COMPELLED TO IMPLEMENT THEM FAITHFULLY.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ALSO ASKED HIM ABOUT AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE DECEMBER 6 EDITION OF "DER SPIEGEL" WHICH SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD ORDERED AN EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION OF HOW THE FRG COULD WITHDRAW FROM THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS AGREED UPON WITH BRAZIL WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE CONTRACT ON REACTORS. THE OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT THE ARTICLE WAS NOT ACCURATE. HE MUSED THAT A PRO-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT "HARD LINER" MIGHT HAVE WRITTEN THE ARTICLE
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IN ORDER TO GET THE FRG TO DENY IT OFFICIALLY.

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3. THE OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, DID NOT DENY THAT THERE WERE SENSITIVE INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL NOW TAKING PLACE IN BONN. IN FACT, HE NOTED THAT THE SECRET SPD-FDP COALITION NEGOTIATIONS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM THIS WEEK, BUT THAT FONOFF OFFICIALS WERE NOT USUALLY PRIVY TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FRG ESTABLISHING A SENIOR-LEVEL NUCLEAR EXPORT COUNCIL COMPARABLE TO THE FRENCH MODEL, THE OFFICIAL RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS AN IDEA WHICH DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH HAD FLOATED WITHIN THE FOREIGN OFFICE. THE OFFICIAL SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, BUT THAT IT HAD NOT MET WITH MUCH SUPPORT IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE FONOFF.

5. COMMENT: THE DISARMAMENT SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE DOES NOT PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRG NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SECTION IS GENERALLY INVOLVED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IN POLICY DELIBERATIONS AND HAS PUSHED A NON-PROLIFERATION LINE.
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Message Attributes

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